

December 30, 1963

Mr. William H. Distin
Henry Ford Museum
Dearborn, Michigan

Dear Mr. Distin:

I wish to thank you for your courtesy to me in devoting last Saturday morning to research activities.

I believe I obtained a substantial working knowledge of some of the wonderful items in your numismatic collection. It was an opportunity I sincerely appreciate. I certainly have been trying for a long enough time to find a mutually convenient time to work with you and fully realize that you went far and beyond the call of duty in seeing me.

You were very nice to arrange for a photograph of the two 1771 Virginia pieces and for the proof of the link design on the fractional Continental Currency.

You will recall that I asked for a thermofax of the reverse of the \$7 1776 Continental Congress issue which was supposedly in the Maryland Historical Society. I believe this is the same copper plate which is in the Pennsylvania Historical Society which I have already written up. As soon as you send me a thermofax I can tell whether they are identical.

Again, may I thank you for your cooperation and kindness and I wish you a very Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

April 9, 1964

Mr. Wm. Distin
Henry Ford Museum
Dearborn, Michigan

Dear Mr. Distin:

Thank you, very much
for the pictures.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

September 9, 1964

Mr. Wm. H. Distin
Henry Ford Museum
Dearborn, Michigan

Dear Bill:

Would you be nice enough to look in your Colonial currency collection, at the \$50 notes of the August 8, 1778 issue of North Carolina, and let me know what the motto on the front is and whether 1778 or 1780 is on the back. You may have several varieties and I would like this information on each.

You may be interested in knowing that I am writing a complete list of all known varieties of Colonial notes and will, from time to time, ask you a question or two.

Thank you for your past assistance, and with kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

July 22, 1974

Ford Museum
Greenfield Village, Michigan

Attention: Mr. Distin

Gentlemen:

I am in the process of revising my book, Early Paper Money of America, for the Bicentennial. You helped me originally and now I must ask for your help again. This time my request is minor. Mr. Lasser who recently visited you is helping me.

I am including issues up to 1800 and as a result am including change notes of the 1790-1800 period. You have some and I would like the following information and reproductions:

You have 3d, 4d and 9d of John Cooper, Cooperstown, N. Y. dated March 25, 1790. I would like a Xerox or preferably an IBM Copier reproduction of each.

You have City of Albany, N. Y. Aug. 28, 1790 and I would like to know the color of the front and the back of the 1d, 2d and 3d of that date only.

You have Corporation of Kingston, N.Y., 1d, 2d and 3d dated Sept. 8, 1790. On some the printer is Mandeville & Co. On others it is Mandeville & Westcott. Printers. Please tell me which you have on each denomination.

Are the Little Falls, N.Y. 1d and 2d signed by John Portens or by someone else?

Please give me the signers of the Ballstown N. Y., 1 d, 2d and 3d. There are James Rogers, S. Tryon, Davis & Clark and others. Do they have a date?

If there are any suggestions you have for my book please let me know. I have at least 100 corrections in name spelling, many new notes to list, and naturally, extensive clarification and expansion of the text.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN:atb

Greenfield Village &



Henry Ford Museum

William Clay Ford, Chairman
Board of Trustees

Frank Caddy, President

June 25, 1980

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis
Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

It was a pleasure to talk with you yesterday about our collection of Colonial and Continental Currency. I appreciate, very much, the time you devoted to our discussion.

As you requested, I am writing to reiterate our interest in having you and/or another authority evaluate this collection from two standpoints: 1., its scholarly, artistic and intrinsic merits; and 2., its current market value, or some fair approximation of it. I appreciate your willingness to send me the names of several authorities who are qualified to do the latter. I look forward to hearing from you about this aspect of my request.

I also hope it will be possible for you to give us your evaluation of this collection. If you are able to do so, we shall, of course, take care of the expenses you incur in coming to Dearborn, and also offer you an honorarium, if you will kindly let me know what this would be.

Thank you again for your kind interest.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth M. Wilson
Director
Collections and Preservation

KMW:CJT

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

July 16, 1980

Mr. Kenneth M. Wilson, Director
Collections and Preservation
Greenfield Village & Henry Ford Museum
The Edison Institute
Dearborn, MI 48121

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I have been on vacation and for that reason was unable to respond promptly to your letter of June 5, 1980. With respect to your collection of Colonial and Continental currency you have one of the several fine collections. From a scholarly point of view I have studied your collection as a whole and others have studied it in specialized areas. Naturally there is always more information to be derived, but your collection is generally pasted into books and is very difficult to work with. The back of many of the notes is not available for examination. I realize how difficult it is for you to be of service to researchers when the collection requires substantial security.

We discussed the matter with Richard Picker with respect to the evaluation and he indicated that he had been in touch with you previously. This organization does not evaluate items or collections because it is non-commercial. Since I presume that you are giving consideration to disposition of the collection our organization would want to avoid any conflict of interest in the event we might wish to have some of the items for our collection.

With investors in the market, values are very unpredictable because if the investors are not interested in an item it will sell for far below what it would sell for if they were interested. Most shy away from items which are not in perfect condition.

If you are planning to sell the collection and are offered a reasonable price, that might be better than submitting it to auction, particularly since it would have to be dismantled for auction purposes and you would not know what you might receive.

I hope I have been of some help.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

Greenfield Village &



Henry Ford Museum

William Clay Ford, Chairman
Board of Trustees

Frank Caddy, President

August 1, 1980

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you for your letter of July 16 which, in turn, arrived while I was on vacation. Thank you for taking the time to share your points of view with us concerning our collection, and for your suggestions concerning its disposal, in the event this is the course we wish to pursue.

Mr. Picker has not been in touch with me regarding the monetary appraisal of the collection, but apparently he has talked with our Vice-President, Mr. Wheeler. Thank you for recommending him to us. Should we decide to avail ourselves of his services, we shall be in touch with him.

Again, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth M. Wilson
Director
Collections and Preservation

KMW:CJT